

Abstract Form

Abstract is to be typed in a 10 point font/typeface (Times Roman preferred) and must fit in the space below; additional pages may not be submitted.

FOR REVIEWER USE

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Reviewer's signature

FOR OFFICE USE

Date: _____

Time: _____

• _____

TITLE:

The Organ Donor Witness Project

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

It is been said that euphoria has no dimension. But it would be difficult for even the greatest minds of all time to argue that the feelings of an organ recipient are not as close to euphoria as is humanly possible to experience. Our intelligence tells us it is a pseudo-rebirth. The successful transplant recipients agree it is literally not possible, but in the very personal sense, it is truly being born again. Trying to describe the feelings experienced by one so blessed with a great gift of a donor organ is nothing short of agony, for the only tool we have at our disposal is language. It is an insurmountable task. The English language just doesn't do it—unless possibly through the skills of a great poet. Other languages may come close, but speech itself—prose or average poetry—will not suffice. The ultimate questions must be dealt with. Why am I here? Why me and not one more deserving than I. What can I do to repay this glorious gift of life? How do I say thank you to the brave and generous family of the donor to whom I owe my very life? IT IS IMPOSSIBLE! Some repeatedly thank God, others resolve to do good deeds, promise to change their lives, attend religious services, or resolve forever to be kind to their fellowman. The list goes on and on and on. The result is this: Some just dwell in this beautiful state asking for no explanation of "why me", but the truly blessed continue to seek the answer. Unfortunately, what then evolves in most is procrastination or they become content with telling themselves "I'm doing the best I can by volunteering my services for all transplant organizations whatever the request." This usually brings a feeling of self-worthiness and esteem, and this is truly "the best we can do." IS IT? Maybe the answer is so obvious that we can't "see the trees for the forest". Why not give back at least the equivalent of the organ we received by witnessing the pledge of just one donor—just one. If you multiply all transplant recipients by one donor, the result is equality—one transplanted organ—one return. Is it asking too much for each one of us to return only one organ by witnessing one signature? Will not this simple answer result in an astronomical number of donors internationally? You know it will. You know too, that once you realize the enormity of the resulting numbers most of us will obtain many more signatures than just than one.. How about your family, your friends, and so many good people who would be more than willing if only they were asked. And by the way—how about you—have you signed your card? We must not make this a contest. The witnesses need not be known by name—we're only interested in the tally—a completely anonymous united effort. In any army, it is the footsoldiers who are the backbone of the battle. Let the transplant recipients become the footsoldiers of this crusade for organ donor pledges. **IS THIS THE ANSWER?**

DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATION (if completed, provide results):

The Organ Donor Witness Project may be implemented in various ways:

1. At the Trio of Western New York meetings, pledges are taken anonymously to witness the signing of drivers' licenses or donor cards along with the any other witness available. The witness then submits the number of signatures received at the next month's meeting. The numbers submitted are calculated by placing one penny in a container for each signature witnessed. Thereby, keeping complete anonymity because the procedure is not a contest, rather, a personal commitment.
2. This pilot study has been completed successfully for six months. The pledges' minimal lifetime goal was to witness two organ donors. One for the organ received and a gift of the other. The first meeting resulted in twenty-three anonymous pledges. At the following month's meeting, one hundred-sixty eight pennies were deposited in a container.
3. Any person, an organ recipient or not, may become a donor witness who also submit the number of signatures witnessed to a chosen delegated of an organization calculating the numbers.
4. Stations may be placed at any public or social gathering (stores, places of business, etc.) for the purpose of witnessing donors.
5. Short oral presentations or lectures may be given to schools, civics groups or religious affiliates, completed by asking for donors' signatures to be witnessed.
6. Unlimited other methods may be created. The basic result of the Organ Donor Witness Project is similar to the Pyramid Concept - there is theoretically no end. The difference is, numbers will be calculated only by the anonymous committed witness, thereby not implementing a chain effect prevalent in the pyramid. In conclusion, this project will supply all organs needed eventually.

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